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ANIMAL RIGHTS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In the primitive age of society, Rights and duties were attributed to human beings only and implementation of these rights were human welfare centric. The social ecosystem can be smoothly run by a just and equitable balance between the human beings and non-human animals. Humans have human rights whereas animals have been allotted either directly or indirectly some basic rights for avoid the callous treatment. The conception of Animal welfare indicates to the relationships people have with animals and the duty they have to insure that the animals under their care are treated humanely and responsibly. The legal animal rights, which are just becoming apparent, there is a need for more structured ideology of animal rights as legal rights at international as well as national level. This article will deal with the origin, concept, an overview of animal rights and important judicial decisions regarding animal laws. Additionally, there are recommendations that ensure a fair treatment to animals and should be protected from maltreatment, slavery, torture and getting killed. This article will also analyze new legal developments for the welfare of animals will some pragmatic solution.

Keywords: Animal Rights, Animal Welfare, Human Rights, New Legal Developments.

1. Introduction

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

-Mahatma Gandhi

India has long been known as a country where animals are not only accepted as a part of the universe, but are also worshipped. On the one hand, people have demonstrated their devotion to deities and the animals associated with them in temples, while on the other, the same animals are subjected to cruelty. ANIMAL RIGHTS is a contentious issue and perhaps an underrated topic in today's world. In our ordinary routine, it is not uncommon to witness events such as stoning and injuring homeless dogs, shooting innocent winged creatures, and abandoning innocuous animals to starvation and death. Organizations unlawfully testing on animals, animals being abused and are hurt for amusement in zoos and parks, men transporting a large number of cows or other animals in trucks in inhumane conditions, beating them and over-burdening them. The mere

thought about whether there is a conclusion to this callous system makes me furious. In comparison with other liberation movements, Animal Liberation has a lot of handicaps.¹ First and most obvious is the fact that members of the exploited group cannot themselves make an organized protest against the treatment they receive (though they can and do protest to the best of their abilities individually).

Other than humans, do animals experience pain? How do we know this? So, how can we tell if anyone, human or nonhuman, is in pain? We are aware that we are capable of experiencing pain. We know this from direct pain experiences, such as when someone presses a lighted cigarette against the back of our hand. But how do we know if anyone else is suffering? We cannot directly feel the pain of others, whether they are our best friend or a stray dog. Pain is a state of consciousness, a “mental event,” and as such it can never be observed. Pain is something that we feel, and we can only infer that others are feeling it from various external indications².

We must speak up for those who are unable to speak for themselves. Nonhuman animal sacrifice has been a continuing tradition in India for medical research, industrial use, farm production, and human consumption, as well as to control zoonotic diseases such as Rabies, Nipah virus, H1N1 and A H5N1. The fact that these activities result in animals being killed prematurely, mistreated, and, to a large extent, unethically saves and secures human lives. People, too, play an important role in understanding the importance of ecology and all living beings. Animals must be granted their basic freedoms.

2. Legislation for protecting Animal Rights

Protection of animals is embodied as a fundamental duty in the Constitution of India, Indian Penal Code (1860) which covers all substantive aspects of criminal law, at central level there exists Prevention to Cruelty Act, 1960, Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rule 2001, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (Slaughterhouse) Rules, 2001, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which introduce the safety, protection, punishment in cases of animal cruelty. Rule 3 of Slaughterhouse Rules, 2001 also states that animal sacrifice is against the law in every part of the country³. The key provision is the Prevention of cruelty to animals Act, 1960. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is the foremost legislation made in post-independence India for protection of animals. But it seems to be not inspected and upgraded as the fines prescribed are insufficient for the offences which have been committed in violation of Sections 11, 20 or 26 of the PCA Act, 1960, ranging from Rs.10- 500 which now a days is not much and anyone can manage to give and get a bail.⁴

¹ PETER SINGER, ANIMAL LIBERATION 24 (Harper Collins 2015).

² PETER SINGER, *supra* note 1, at 40

³ Arushi Singh, *Humans losing humanity: Rising instances of animal cruelty in India, Land where they are worshipped*, THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, (June 19th 2021, 08:39 AM), <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/jun/19/humans-losing-humanity-rising-instances-of-animal-cruelty-in-india-land-where-they-are-worshipped-2158506.html>.

⁴ Times of India, *available at* <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/ex-mps-grandson-drives-audi-over-dog-in-bengaluru/articleshow/89259480.cms> (last visited on february 4th, 2022).

The Hon'ble Supreme Court explained the meaning of 'compassion' under Article 51(A)(g) as an emotion that arises out of sympathy, love and kindness⁵ and gave broader meaning to the term 'life' under Article 21 and expanded the 'right to dignity and unbiased treatment' to animals⁶.

2.1 The constitution of India⁷

The Indian Constitution is distinctive in both spirit and content. In spite of the fact that various features of the constitution have been borrowed from other constitutions of the world, it is in truth a special work of the framers. The Directive Principles of State Policy Part IV- Article 48 and 48A talks about the duty of state to take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibition of slaughter of animals and to safeguard and improve the environment and wildlife of the country. Article 48 A was introduced by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. While they are not directly enforceable in Indian courts, they lay down the spadework for legislations, policies and state directives in furtherance of animal protection at the Central and State levels. Additionally, they may be enforced in courts by proceeding an extensive judicial interpretation and introducing them within the scope of the fundamental Right to Life and Liberty under Article 21 which is judicially enforceable. Originally the concept of Fundamental Duties (Part IV A) was not in the Indian Constitution at the time of its inception and through the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976 a new part with 10 new clauses (now 11 clauses after 86th Amendment Act in 2002) under 51A was inserted in the Constitution. In this part, clause (g) of the new Article 51A requires every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forest, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. It was great efforts by Parliament to directly deal with the ecological matter and to impose duty upon citizen to take care about wildlife. If any citizen is not protecting or causing harm to the wildlife then he is not performing the fundamental duties towards the State. Originally, this amendment was made on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee which proposed 8 point code of fundamental duties.⁸ Under Article 51 A (g) of the Indian Constitution, the fundamental duty of every citizen of India is to improve the natural environment which incorporates wildlife and have compassion towards all living creatures. The Supreme Court in *Ramlila Maidan v. Home Secretary, Union of India, & Ors.*⁹, held that The protection of human rights is not the only purpose of the Constitution. The catena of judgement also emphasizes the need to preserve and safeguard all living things, including humans, animals, plants, rivers, hills, and the environment. Our Constitution recognizes both individual rights and obligations as well as collective life and duty on the one hand. In interpreting the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, the High Court of Gujrat realised that Cattle are like human beings possess life in them. According to the court, even an animal has a right to say

⁵ State of Gujrat v. Mirzapur Moti Qureshi Kassab Jamat and Ors., AIR 2006 SC 212.

⁶ Animal Welfare Board of India v. A Nagaraja, (2014) SC 547.

⁷ The Constitution of India Act, 1950, Acts of Parliament, 1950 (India).

⁸ Select Constitutions: A.C. Kapur & K.K. Misra: S. Chand, p. 122.

⁹ In Ramlila Maidan Incident, Suo Motu W.P. (CRL) No. 122 of 2011, Criminal Original Jurisdiction, the Supreme Court of India, Dr. B.S. Chauhan, J. 23 February 2012, para 18.

that it's liberty cannot be deprived except in accordance with law. There are many enactments which have recognised rights of the animals.¹⁰

2.2 The Indian Penal Code, 1860¹¹

The IPC,1860, is a official criminal code of India which encloses all substantive aspects of criminal law and also has the provisions for animal protection namely section 428 and 429. An act committed under both the sections of IPC is a cognizable offence. Cognizable offence means an offence for which, a police officer may, in accordance with the first schedule or under any other law for the time being in force, arrest without warrant.

Section 428- Mischief that results in the death, poisoning, injury, or rendering of any animal or animals worth ten rupees or more is punishable by up to two years in prison, a fine, or both.

Section 429- This section talks about mischief by killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering any animal or animals of the value of fifty rupees or higher shall be punished with imprisonment up to five years, or with fine, or with both. The above stated legislations have been enacted to remove unnecessary pain and suffering of animals and similar legislations resumed to be enacted according to changing situations.

2.3 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts, 1960¹²

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 is a welfare law that was drafted with the purpose and object of the Act in mind, as well as the Directive Principles of State Policy. The Prevention of Cruelty Act, 1960, was enacted in India to prohibit the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend existing laws pertaining to the prevention of cruelty to animals. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960 is the foundation of India's cruelty laws. The main goal of the Act is to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend laws relating to animal cruelty prevention. The term "animal" is defined in the PCA Act of 1960 as any living creature other than a human being. Section 11 defines animal cruelty and the punishment for treating animals cruelly.

1. It is illegal to poison stray animals

According to Section 2(c) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960, it is illegal to offer any harmful drugs or substances to stray dogs or other street animals.

2. It is illegal to cause harm to stray animals.

It is illegal to cause any kind of injury or kill any street animal using the method of strychnine injections in the heart under sections 428 and 429 of the Indian Penal Code and section 11(l) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960. Nonetheless, cases of stray animals being intentionally harmed by humans go unnoticed on a regular basis.

¹⁰ *Mahisagar Mataji Samaj Seva Trust v. State of Gujrat*, Writ Petition (PIL) No. 173 of 2011, In The High Court of Gujrat at Ahmedabad, Dated on 12 March 2012.

¹¹ The Indian Penal Code, 1860, No.4, Acts of Parliament, 1860 (India).

¹² The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, No.59, Acts of Parliament, 1960 (India).

3. It is illegal to relocate stray animals from their territory.

Section 7 of the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rule 2001 makes it illegal to relocate stray animals. On a specific complaint, the dog squad team will identify and tag the capturing dog to ensure that the dogs are released in the same area after sterilization/vaccination, and a record of the same should be kept in a register. Dogs should be captured by using humane methods like lassoing and soft loop animal catcher as prescribed under Prevention of Cruelty (Capture of Animals) Rules, 1979, but there are many cases that showed us the stray dogs are being beaten up and taken away in sacks from their territory.

4. It is illegal to over-drive, over-ride, over-loads, tortures animals.

According to section 11(a), whoever beats, kicks, over-drives, over-rides or otherwise treats animals subject to unnecessary pain or suffering shall be punishable.

5. It is illegal to transport or carry animal in an inhumane conditions.

Section 11 (d) of the PCA Act, 1960, restrains any person who carries or conveys any animal upon any vehicle in such a manner which causes unnecessary pain or suffering¹³

6. It is illegal to keep the animals in confinement with no opportunity of exercise.

Section 11(e) prohibits confinement of animals in any cage or other receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length and breadth to allow the animal a proper opportunity for movement.

7. It is illegal to refuse food, drink or shelter to animal.

Section 11(h) says being the owner, failing to provide the animal with sufficient food, drink or shelter is a punishable offence.

8. It is illegal to chained animal for groundless period of time.

Section 11(f) restrains keeping an animal chained or tethered upon an unreasonably heavy chain or chord for an unreasonable period of time.

If any person treats animal with cruelty, shall be punishable with fine upto fifty rupees for the first offence. If offender repeats the offence within 3 years of the previous offence then he shall be punishable with fine upto one hundred rupees or with imprisonment upto 3 months or with both.

However, the Act does not define as cruelty the dehorning, castration, or nose roping of cattle or other animals carried out in accordance with the rules, the killing of stray dogs in lethal chambers carried out in accordance with the prescribed procedures, the extermination or destruction of any animal carried out pursuant to the authority of the law, or the preparation of any animal for use as food for humans unless such preparation is followed by the infliction of needless pain or suffering.

2.4 Wildlife Protection Act, 1972¹⁴

This Act provides for the protection of the country's wild animals, birds, and plant species, in order to ensure environmental and ecological security. Among other things, the Act lays down restrictions on hunting many animal species. The Act was last amended in the year 2006. Prior to this legislation, India had only five designated national parks. At present, there are 106 National Parks in India.

¹³ Humane society International (India), *15 Animal Rights in India that Every Citizen Should Know*, TBI BLOGS, (June 23RD, 2021, 8:19PM), <https://www.thebetterindia.com/46721/humane-society-india-animal-laws-prevention-of-cruelty-act/>.

¹⁴ The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, No.53, Acts of Parliament, 1972 (India).

Salient features of this Act

Chapter 1 (Section 2) is a definition clause and Section 2 (37) of the act, describes “wildlife” which includes any animal, aquatic or land vegetation which forms part of any habitat, hence making the definition broad and comprehensive one.

Chapter 2 (section 3) deals with appointment of directors and other officers by central government.

Chapter 3 (Section 9) of the Act prohibits the hunting of any wild animal specified in Schedule 1, 2, 3 and 4 except as provided under section 11 and 12 of the Act and punishes the offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto 3 years or fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees or with both.

Chapter 3A (section 17A) talks about protection and prohibition of picking, uprooting, etc of specified plants.

Chapter 4 deals with declaration of protected areas to safeguard the Forest Wealth and Wildlife of the area.

Chapter 4 A discusses the constitution of Central Zoo authority by Central Government and recognition of Zoos.

Chapter 5 prohibits trade or commerce in wild animals. Section 48A of the Act prohibits transportation of any wild animal, bird or plants except with the permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden or any other official authorised by the State Government. Section 49 prohibits the purchase of wild animals without license from dealers

Chapter 5A deals with prohibition of trade or commerce in trophies, animal articles, etc, derived from certain animals.

Chapter 6 deals with prevention and detection of offences and section 51 prescribes the penalties of the Act.

Chapter 6 A describes forfeiture of property from illegal hunting and trade of wild animals or meat of wild animal and ivory imported into India and an article made from such ivory shall be considered as the property of the Government.

The Act allows the Central and State Government to declare any area as ‘restricted’ to carrying out any industrial activity in these areas is prohibited under the Act¹⁵.

In the Concurrent List of 7th schedule of Indian Constitution, both the Centre and the States have the power to legislate on matters related to Prevention of cruelty to animals under Entry 17 and Protection of wild animals and birds under Entry 17 B and earlier it was in Entry 22 in concurrent list in the Government of India Act, 1935.

3. JUDICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

Independent judiciary is a basic feature of Indian legal system and judiciary has also played very proactive role for protection and promotion of animal rights in India. Different Ngo’s and private person has approached to the courts for upholding the rights of the animals. Because of this awareness different types of Ngo’s specifically for animal rights have been established in India and now they are working in support for the promotion and protection of the animal rights. The following cases are illustrative in nature where the Supreme Court has played a very proactive role for the welfare of animal rights.

¹⁵ Mirzawardahbeg, *Animal Protection Laws in India*, iPLEADERS BLOG, (June 24th, 2021, 9:40 AM), <https://blog.iplayers.in/animal-protection-laws-in-india/>

I. Gauri Maulekhi v. Union of India¹⁶

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal banned the illegal transport of cattle for the Gadhimai festival in 2014, which played a significant role in reducing the number of animal sacrifices in Nepal. The order was issued in direct response to an urgent petition filed by Smt. Gauri Maulekhi. The court established rules for cattle markets, animal markets, and cattle configuration. The Supreme Court stated in its order that the sacrifice of animals at the Gadhimai festival was demeaning and cruel, and that the recommendations should be adopted by all district collectors or Commissioners of Police and the Superintendent of Police. Also, ensure that the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act are effectively implemented.

PETA v. Union of India¹⁷

According to the Bombay High Court, any film intended for public viewing in which an animal is used or filmed and worked must obtain a certificate from the Animal Welfare Board of India stating that the provisions of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 have been met in accordance with the prescribed format. This rule protects animals from being exploited or mistreated during the filming process, which can last several hours. The ruling protects animals from abuse, such as being subjected to loud, unusual sounds, being beaten or kept without food or water, and being subjected to inhumane treatment.

III. Ozair Hussain v. Union of India¹⁸

The Delhi High Court ruled that the packaging of products such as food, drugs (except life-saving drugs), and cosmetics must include information about the items' vegetarian or non-vegetarian origins, while respecting the freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution and Article 10(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Any food containing whole or part of an animal (but not milk or milk products) must be identified by a brown circle within a square outline. Similar to this, all vegetarian meals must have a green circle inside of a green square to be recognised as such. The court ruled that a citizen's right to free speech should apply to food choices as well, and that doing so would help people make more informed decisions about the goods they eat.

IV. State of UP v. Mustakeem and Ors¹⁹

In this instance, it was discovered that goats were being moved cruelly into slaughter. An FIR was filed against the owner because they were closely bound together, which was against the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. While the case was in court, the UP High Court gave the owner back custody of the animals. The animals were to be taken away from the owner and kept in a gaushala under the supervision of the state government, which was given custody of them for the length of the case, the Hon'ble Supreme Court said in its decision on appeal. The Court made it clear that once an animal is taken out of someone's custody

¹⁶ Gauri Maulekhi v. Union of India and Ors, (2014) W.P. (CIVIL) NO. 881 .

¹⁷ People For Ethical Treatment of Animal v. Union of India, (2005) W.P.(C) NO.23480.

¹⁸ Ozair Hussain v. Union of India, (2001) W.P.(C) NO. 837.

¹⁹ State of Uttar Pradesh v. Mustakeem And Ors., (2002) W.P.(CR.) NO. 283-287.

due to that person's treatment of that animal in a cruel manner, the animal will not be returned until the case is over.

V. Nair, N.R. And Ors v. Uoi and Ors²⁰

A notification by the Ministry of Environment and Forests stating that bears, monkeys, tigers, panthers and lions shall not be exhibited or trained as performing animals²¹. When the notification was challenged in the Supreme Court, the court ruled that animals are subjected to cruelty and are abused and caged in order to force them to perform forcefully, which violates the PCA Act of 1960. It also rejected the petitioner's claim that his right to engage in any trade or business under Article 19(g) of the Indian Constitution was violated because these activities cause pain and suffering to animals and thus should not be permitted.

4. Recent Legal Developments and Animal Rights

The government has proposed a draft that will amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, where a person inflicting pain or killing an animal can no longer escape by paying a fine of Rs.50. The recent proposal states that a fine of up to Rs.75000 or three times the cost of the animal or imprisonment for a term of five years or both will be imposed on a person or organisation that causes the death of any animal. Although the current law imposes a fine between Rs.10 – Rs.50 without any classification for the various types of cruelty, the new draft has been classified into three- minor injury, major injury and death of the animal with fines ranging between Rs.750- Rs.75000 and imprisonment for a term up to five years depending upon the nature of offence.

5. Conclusion

Animal law is a relatively new development where the legal, social and biological nature of non-human animals is an important factor. There are some basic obligations of human beings towards animals like not to treat them with cruelty, slaughter without pain and not to treat them as property. The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, to the Indian Constitution was a growing step towards laying the groundwork for animal protection in India. The constitutional provisions establishing the duty of animal protection have resulted in the enactment of animal protection legislations both at the central and state level, remarkable of which being the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. Furthermore, over the years Indian courts have developed a growing legal jurisprudence in animal law. Still, there is a long way to go for developing a concrete foundation for animal law in India. The provisions for animal protection in the Indian Constitution remain a doctrine instead of solid law enforceable by courts. The punishment for cruelty against animals is liberal to truly deter crimes against animals under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960. The law is not followed strictly and contains several provisions which provide freedom through which liability can be escaped. Considerable reforms need to take place in this regard to provide a harsher animal protection laws for India. In reality, every single animal is worthy of respect and care, deserves to live a life with dignity without unnecessary human

²⁰ Nair, N.R. And Ors. v. Union of India (2001) S.L.P.(C) NO.3609-3620.

²¹ Performing Animals (Regulation) Act, 1925

exploitation, pain or interference. The basic idea is to spread awareness that animal rights is a serious issue worthy of public discussion. Hopefully, soon the rights of innocent animals would gain larger acceptance in the society.²² Every animal deserves respect and care and the chance to have a meaningful life free from unnecessary human exploitation or interference. The goal is to raise public awareness about the seriousness and importance of the subject of animal rights. It is expected that soon the rights of helpless animals will be more widely acknowledged in society²³.

There is a need to have stricter laws and their effective implementation against preventing cruelty towards animals. Let us begin the crusade for compassion and we must win because our case is just. Every Indian must remember the fundamental duty that to have compassion for living creatures²⁴ that every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man.

6. Suggestions

The following suggestions can be given as below-

1. Reports of animal cruelty must be taken seriously, and police officers must be aware of animal protection laws and actively participate in preventing animal cruelty. Since both human and animal welfare are intertwined, finding those who abuse animals is much more important. Finding people who abuse animals can aid in stopping future crimes against not only animals but also our children and women. Animals are from where criminals always start. They function as a stepping stone. Going unpunished and unregulated just serves to strengthen their criminal inclinations because we live in a world where it is pretty Fine to stick, stone, and treat animals cruelly. From animals, they move on to kids and then women. By the time they are discovered, it is frequently too late because the harm done to society cannot be undone. Animal abusers should be included in the National Crime Register²⁵.
2. Educate children to respect animals and to treat them with kindness. Animals are living beings who should not be treated any differently than humans. Teaching children to respect animals is the first step in this direction. It is important to catch children when they are young and mould them to be compassionate from the start. A positive shift in their attitude toward animals, particularly street animals, can influence their parents' attitudes toward animals.
3. The government should take strong action against those accused of animal cruelty in order to enforce the rules already in place in our nation. If we were discussing consumer goods, the penalty needs to be determined according to the rate of inflation; however, in this context, the laws are intended to deter crimes against animals. The government should take strict measures against

²² Bhumika Sharma, Priyanka Sharma, *Rights of animals at practice in India*, 3 JOURNAL ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF LAW, 24 (2017).

²³ Bhumika Sharma, Priyanka Sharma, *Rights of animals at practice in India*, 3 JOURNAL ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF LAW, 24 (2017).

²⁴ Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India.

²⁵ Dr. Kuhu Roy & Mrs. Hansa Roy, *Progressive Animal Protection Laws of India : Our Wish for 2022 BRIDGING RAINBOWS* (September 13th 2022) <https://www.bridgingrainbows.com/progressive-animal-protection-laws-in-india-our-wish-for-2022/>

children and young people who bully animals. Less incidences of animal cruelty will occur as a result of stricter legislation and sanctions.

4. Through sterilisation, it's essential to monitor the number of street animals (neuter and spaying). Stray animals should be given shelter by the government as well. It is necessary to create district-level shelter homes for the care of injured animals.
5. To reduce animal suffering and death in nonhuman animals by purchasing cruelty-free products, donating only to charities that do not conduct animal experiments, and requesting alternatives to animal dissection.
6. Animal festivals with competitive games have to be banned. The largest festival in Punjab, the Qila Raipur Sports Festival, where rare breeds of bullocks, camels, dogs, mules, and other animals compete in various events, is an example of animal cruelty. Another example is the traditional festival of Kambala in Karnataka, which was prohibited by the Supreme Court for the benefit of animal welfare but is still held under strict guidelines.
7. The veterinary profession needs to be promoted among young people.
8. Animals are killed for human needs all around the world as a result of experimental testing in various laboratories. The use of animals for testing should end completely. The rights of animals should be protected.
9. Animal rights should be taught in law school. Animal welfare research should be encouraged by academics.
10. State Animal Welfare Boards (SAWBs) should be constituted in every state and committee should be constituted to direct the working of SAWBs²⁶. Animal welfare should be the responsibility of a full ministry, not simply a board.

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²⁶ Mayank Aggarwal, *Who's Looking After The Animals of India?* MONGABAY (July 7th, 2021, 4:15 PM), <https://india.mongabay.com/2020/03/whos-looking-after-the-animals-of-india/>

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